

**NORTH KESTIVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR

1945

LINCOLN :
DONCASTERS LTD., MINT LANE

NORTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for 1945

Chairman : MR. L. E. ALLBONES, Stragglethorpe.
Vice-Chairman : MR. J. COLTON HALL, 47 Doddington Road, Lincoln.
Treasurer : NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED, Lincoln.
Medical Officer of Health : DR. W. SHARRARD, The Avenue, Lincoln.
Clerk & Financial Officer : MR. F. FOSTER,
Deputy Clerk : MR. WILLIAM EPTON, Solicitor, Lincoln.
Rating and Valuation Officer :
MR. A. ELKINGTON, } Council Offices :
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : 31 Clasketgate, Lincoln,
MR. J. CHADWICK, } Telephone No. 8617.
Assistant Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector : } Pumping Station, Waneham Bridge,
MR. J. K. M. WILLIS. } Metherringham.
} Telephone No. 230.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman act as *ex-officio* members of all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (except the Rating Committee).

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As your Medical Officer of Health, I beg to lay before you my report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	102,178
Population, 1944	22,160
1945	21,840
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921	3,825
" " " 1944	6,303
" " " 1945	6,317
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921	4,301
" " " 1931	4,931
Rateable Value (31st December, 1944)	£106,121
Sum represented by a penny rate	£430

The usual pursuits were carried on in the District.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	370	201	169	Birth Rate 18.1
Illegitimate	44	21	23	
Still Births	11	4	7	Rate per 1,000
				Total Births 25.9
Deaths	236	130	106	Death Rate 10.8
Number of women dying in, or in consequence				} from sepsis 0
of, childbirth				
				} from other causes 2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—Total 50.7.
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0
 Deaths from Diarrhæa (under 2 years of age) 0
 Pneumonia was accountable for 3.4% of the deaths. Cancer 9.3%.
 Heart Disease 24.6. Tuberculosis, respiratory .4%. Influenza 1%.
 Infantile mortality is below that for England and Wales.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of the HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

These are substantially the same as in the year previous.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Salvage

The following has been collected and disposed of by the Council during the year under the control of your Sanitary Inspector :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrts.
Paper	21	15	3
Textiles	1	8	2
Bones	2	18	0
Iron and other Metal ...	—	—	—
Total Weight	26	2	1

Total value, £177 7s. 2d.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

During the year Inspections have been made as follows :—

Horse Slaughterers, Carcasses Inspected, Slaughterhouses ...	110
Food Preparing Premises	28
Bakehouses	29
Workshops	24
Drains tested	43
Housing Inspections	96
Inspections on complaints	205
Inspections, re Nuisances	152
Cowsheds	26
Dairies and Milkshops	27
Infectious Diseases	44
Houses Disinfected	13
Water Samples taken	42
Camps and Hostels	20
Visits, re Sewer Dykes	73
Visits, re Water Supplies to Premises	188
Visits to Council Houses	188
Overcrowding Cases	7
Sewage Works, etc.	18
New Water Connections	53
Houses in course of erection	76
Scavenging	30
Rural Housing Survey (Houses Inspected)	325

Food Condemned

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76 Tins
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Dried Fruits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 cwts.
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23 stone
Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42 lbs.
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18 galls.
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45 lbs.
Horseflesh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 Carcases and 3 forequarters
Horseflesh Offals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 cwts.
Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Emulsified Fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50 lbs.

Water Supply

The daily consumption figures amount to 511,600 gallons, compared with 482,800 gallons daily for the previous year.

Regarding the new Scheme detailed in my last Report, the erection of the Pump Houses is nearing completion but it will be some months before the full Scheme is working as a whole. The withdrawal of the W.B.A. priority for over a year seriously affected the completion of the Scheme.

Future Schemes

The supply of water to the remaining Parishes, and also extensions for existing Parishes has been approved by the County Council with certain major alterations. These are nearing completion and it is hoped to forward the full Scheme to the Ministry in the near future.

Water Supply Generally

Particular care is taken by your Officers in the regular taking of samples from all public supplies, and any suspicion as to the purity is immediately reported to me. During the past year, the local supplies of Leadenham and Welbourn have been abandoned and connected with our main supply.

Sewerage

Schemes are being prepared for all the Parishes on a long term policy, and by the end of the year many have been approved in principle by this Council. It is hoped to submit them to the County Council for their prior approval before submitting to the Ministry. The County Council have appointed a firm of Consulting Engineers to advise on all Schemes submitted to them by Rural Districts.

The much talked of Scheme for North Hykeham is still being delayed. Although it has been submitted to the Ministry, the latter will not hold an Enquiry until the land question for the disposal works is settled. I do hope that this can be settled early, so that the Scheme can be proceeded with.

Scavenging

I believe the Council are going whole heartedly in to the scavenging of the whole of the area. A comprehensive Scheme has been prepared by your Sanitary Inspector, and until this is finally debated upon, the Council have placed an order for two fully equipped scavenging vehicles each with a capacity of 8 cubic yards. Unfortunately the delivery date is about six months.

Housing Survey

The above has been commenced in the District and by the end of the year, 325 houses have had a detailed inspection by your Officers.

It is early as yet to give you a Report on this Survey, but evidence so far points to a considerable number for major repairs and improvements. I believe this is common in most parts of the Country.

Housing Generally

Some 600 houses are urgently needed in the area, but since the end of hostilities, the actual building throughout the Country has been disappointingly small.

However, Tenders have been let and work commenced on 34 houses. In addition, roadways, etc., have been commenced and nearing completion in the Parishes of North Hykeham, Branston and Bracebridge Heath. The approximate cost of these roadways and services is £13,000.

Public Health Act and Housing Act, 1936

23 Notices have been served during the year, and 20 have been complied with by the owners. In the remaining three cases work has been carried out by the Council at a cost of £117, the amounts being recovered from the owners.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	29	4	—
Diphtheria	3	2	1
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	6	2	8
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis	3	3	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	4	1
Measles	199	8	—
Whooping Cough	78	—	—
Dysentery	14	2	—
Malaria	2	2	—

Tuberculosis (New Cases in 1945)—

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.		M.	F.
Total	22	11	...	3	2
Deaths	1	0	...	2	3

GENERAL REMARKS

At long last we are at peace and can breathe and speak freely. We have done miracles in the provision of water for our fighting forces and are now all set to cover the whole of our District as far as practicable with this service.

Diphtheria Immunisation still goes on satisfactorily and our cases last year were three only, two being in ladies of 43 and 76 years respectively, of whom the latter died, and one child of seven. This is a very wonderful position of affairs indeed.

New cases of tuberculosis showed a marked rise on the year before, but not more than one might expect at this point in our history. The death rate was however in the reverse direction.

The need for the greatest possible care in milk production comes to one's mind in this connection, as glandular tuberculosis is caused by tubercular milk in many cases and there is no doubt that as yet a high proportion of milk must be counted as containing tubercular germs. Hence the necessity at present for pasteurisation of all milk. The protection of tuberculin tested milk of very high quality must be the aim of the producers in our area.

Housing is lagging : not that we are anything but very quick off the mark but from the thousand and one vexatious hindrances inherent in the present system. **We must have houses—quickly.** The sense of frustration is indeed pathetic as those of us in medical practice as well as public health service know so well.

The housing standards, the amenities of gas and electricity, sanitation, and of course pure water, must forthwith be made available to all country folk to ensure stable labour forces for the land. The women-folk demand these things to-day as of right, and community life and good nearby schooling are correspondingly expected.

North Hykeham is somewhat nearer its goal of sanitary service, viz. a full sewerage system—but hope deferred maketh sick the heart.

Our population shows a definite decline. Despite an appeal to the Registrar General when the estimates were re-examined there appears to be no grounds for their amendment. Is this the beginning of a depopulation of our countryside? I hope not. It is for us to press in with every amenity to ensure a good and increasing rural population.

Our birth rate is still high and our death rate definitely coming down as is the case in all England and Wales.

Medical progress in the more general provision of Penicillin for the ordinary public, with all the war experience in its use to back it up, is going to still further reduce both the crippling and killing effects of certain well-known diseases.

Your staff is keen and vitally interested in making ours a model district in all respects. So I conclude once more, after a quarter of a century of progress, with my warmest thanks to all of them, and particularly to Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Willis, and—

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. SHARRARD.

APPENDIX I.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F		M	F
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...			18 Bronchitis	5	9
2 Cerebro-spinal fever		1	19 Pneumonia (all forms)	5	3
3 Scarlet fever ...			20 Other respiratory diseases		4
4 Whooping cough ...			21 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	
5 Diphtheria		1	22 Diarrhœa, etc (under 2 years)		
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1		23 Appendicitis ...	1	
7 Other tuberculosis diseases	2	3	24 Other digestive diseases	2	1
8 Syphilis	1		25 Acute and chronic nephritis	1	
9 Influenza		2	26 Puerperal sepsis ...		
10 Measles			27 Other maternal causes		2
11 Ante Polio-Myelitis	1		28 Premature birth ...	6	1
12 Ac. Inf. Encephalitis			29 Congenital malformations, etc. ...	3	5
13 Duccal cavity & uterus	2	2	30 Suicide		2
Cancer—Stomach & Intestinal ...	5	1	31 Road Traffic Accident	5	0
Breast		1	32 Other violence ...	1	1
All others	5	6	33 All other causes ...	22	14
14 Diabetes	2			—	—
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	23	20	All causes	130	106
16 Heart disease ...	32	26			
17 Other circulatory diseases	4	1			

	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—Total ...	11	10
Legitimate	7	10
Illegitimate	4	—

Live Births—	M.	F.
Total	222	192
Legitimate	201	169
Illegitimate	21	23

Stillbirths—Total ...	M.	F.
Legitimate	4	7
Illegitimate	4	5
	—	2

Population	21,840
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APPENDIX II

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1945.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per live 1,000 Births	
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year		
England and Wales	16.1	0.46	11.4	0.00	0.00	.02	.00	.02	.02	.08	5.6	46		
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	19.1	0.58	13.5	0.00	0.00	.02	.00	.02	.02	.07	7.8	54		
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	19.2	0.53	12.3	0.00	0.00	.02	.00	.01	.02	.07	4.5	43		
London	15.7	0.40	13.8	0.00	0.00	.01	.00	.02	.01	.07	7.6	53		
NORTH KESTEVEN	18.1	.5	10.8	0.00	0.00	.00	0.00	0.0	0.05	.09	0	50.7		

